

Albany Street, intending to go out to the scene. At Albany and Spring Streets he looked at a bulletin board and came home, feeling sick. Shortly afterward he went to see Mrs. Hall and told her they had found the bodies. At Mrs. Hall's he took some aromatic spirits of ammonia to keep from fainting. Mrs. Hall told him that Mr. Florance had just telephoned the same news and "she sat as calm as life. I flopped down in the chair and they gave me aromatic spirits of ammonia. Believe me, if I wasn't sick." Mills came home. Addison Clark (Mrs. Minna Clark's husband) came and said that Totten wanted to see Mills at Hubbard's Morgue. Mills went there and was taken in a car by Totten, to whom he gave a statement of his movements. Mills came to the Hall house again on Sunday evening, but Mrs. Hall did not see him. He stayed only a short time.

Subsequently the prosecutor took several statements from Mills, also his finger-prints. DeMartini talked with him many times, Ellis Parker several times. (stenographer's transcript of the statement of January 24, 1923) Mrs. Julia Harpman Pegler of the Illustrated Daily News practically lived at the Mills house for several months and Milton O'Connell, a Herald reporter, became an intimate of Charlotte. From the day the bodies were discovered Mills talked freely with reporters. Usually he would as his own thoughts what the person previously speaking to him had put in his head. After the grand jury investigation in November, 1922, resulted in no action, Mills became the center of activity on the part of the prosecutors, the newspapers and myself. Mills' statements contained many inconsistencies. In February, 1923, the Daily News, of which Philip Payne was then the editor, arranged for the testing of Mills at a seance in a clairvoyant's parlors in New York. Mrs. Pegler had learned that Mills believed in spiritualism. Mrs. Pegler and Ellis Parker then arranged to have Mills written to on specially prepared stationery of "Madame Astra". Mills told Mrs. Pegler about the letter he had received. She advised his going to New York and actually went with him. An apartment on West 82nd Street had been fixed up in Oriental fashion. Mills was ushered in by a "Hindu" and told to take a seat and keep his hands on a crystal ball. Madame Astra then appeared, took her seat on a dais and began to communicate with the spirit of Mrs. Mills. Concealed behind the dais were Ellis Parker, Beekman, Totten, Philip Payne and two stenographers. Mills, in spite of evident prodding by the medium, never asked the question who killed his wife. Mrs. Pegler returned to New Brunswick with him and stayed at the Mills house that night. The following morning, Sunday, she accompanied Mills by trolley car from New Brunswick to Mount Holly to see Parker. She stated that the first thing Mills said to Parker was that the medium had told him he was innocent. Mrs. Pegler states that nothing even remotely approaching this was said at the seance.

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